

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 14, 2008. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Remaining independent claims 42 and 60 have been amended to recite additional structural elements and more specific functionality of the pressure isolation mechanism. Specifically, the claims now recite structural elements that provide the valve member with two states: (1) an open state wherein there is fluid communication between both the inlet and the outlet of the lumen and between the lumen and the pressure isolation port, and (2) a closed state wherein there is still fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet of the lumen but there is no fluid communication between the lumen and the pressure isolation port. In addition, new dependent claims 76 and 77 have been added.

The claim amendments are fully supported by the specification and drawings, including paragraphs 0036-0038, 0143-0145 and 0176-0182 of the specification and Figures 7D-7F and 12-15 of the drawings. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Prior Art Rejections

The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 as being unpatentable in view of the Trombley, III et al., Morimoto et al., Genese and Raines et al. patents. These rejections are respectfully traversed based, at least in part, on the above claim amendments.

Applicants submit that none of the cited prior art references disclose or suggest, either alone or in combination, a pressure isolation mechanism having the structural elements and functionality claimed above. Specifically, none of the references discloses or suggests structural elements that provide the valve member with two states: (1) an open state wherein there is fluid communication between both the inlet and the outlet of the lumen and between the lumen and the pressure isolation port, and (2) a closed state wherein there is still fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet of the lumen but there is no fluid communication between the lumen and the pressure isolation port.

Rather, the prior art references and, in particular, the Genese patent, discloses a valve that closes the main fluid path in reaction to increasing pressure. In the claimed invention, the main fluid path between the inlet and outlet of the lumen always remains open; only the fluid path between the lumen and the pressure isolation port closes in response to a predetermined fluid pressure level in the lumen.

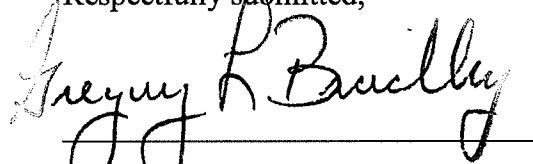
For at least those reasons, Applicants submit that a combination of the cited prior art references does not render obvious the claimed invention, and that the rejection based thereon should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application and claims are in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gregory L. Bradley", is written over a horizontal line.

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